



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOARD
FRIENDSHIP CITIES PROGRAM
POLICY

International Affairs Board

The International Affairs Board (IAB) is an advisory board to the Mayor. The members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council and serve without compensation.

City of San Diego

With over 1.4 million residents, San Diego is the 8th largest city in the United States. From its strategic position on the Pacific Rim, the City of San Diego is an economic powerhouse, sharing trade, investment, education, social, and cultural interactions with people around the globe. A highly diverse city, residents of San Diego speak over 60 languages and dialects. Through interactions with people from other communities, an appreciation for other lifestyles can be cultivated alongside the establishment of economic, social, cultural, and educational ties. For these reasons, the International Affairs Board (IAB) encourages the formation of Friendship Cities Program Designations as a means to promote relationships with international cities.

Purpose

The Friendship Cities Program is a way for the International Affairs Board to initiate relationships with international cities and foster increased global cooperation and communication.

Policy

The Friendship Cities Program Designation is solely approved by and associated with the IAB and does not create any official association with the City of San Diego. The IAB is able to use this relationship to develop multilateral cooperation and to establish partnerships in trade, culture, education, urban development, environmental protection, and many other fields. Friendship Cities may engage in various types of exchange activities for the purpose of furthering internationalization and development.

The Friendship Cities relationship may include, but is not limited to, the exchange of correspondence between IAB representatives and business leaders with regards to areas of mutual interest. The Friendship Cities Program will provide business opportunities, exchange programs, and social, cultural, and educational opportunities to initiate information interactions and the ability to generate community interest and support.

Procedures

1. The Friendship Cities Program is coordinated and managed through the International Affairs Board (IAB).
2. The relationship between the IAB and a Friendship City will be overseen and directed by the International Affairs Board in order to further mutual social, cultural, economic, educational, and environmental development.
3. A Friendship Cities Program Application for Designation will require sponsorship and recommendation by a member of the IAB, business, community, or organizational leaders.
4. A Proposed Friendship Cities Program relationship must be approved by the IAB.
5. The IAB will track all activities of each Friendship City.
6. The Friendship Cities Program, through the International Affairs Board, will create opportunities for the IAB to establish ongoing communication with international municipal governments for the purpose of learning from one another.
7. The Friendship Cities Program will facilitate economic development by coordinating meetings and assistance of business leaders looking to expand or start a business in a Friendship City or the City of San Diego.
8. The IAB will work with the Friendship Cities to facilitate access to Economic Partners that could provide guidance on economic vitality and community benefit through a balanced approach to the maritime industry, tourism, water and land recreation, environmental stewardship, and public safety.
9. Educational exchanges will provide citizens and youth with the opportunity to explore the culture of an international community by gaining insight into the history and values of the Friendship City. These exchanges may include, but are not limited to, sport and technical exchanges, youth tournaments, delegations of representatives and students, and collaborations in various fields.
10. Notwithstanding any other statement in this policy, there will be no IAB funding for the Friendship Cities Program
11. All Friendship Cities Program relationships must be identified by a Friendship Cities Program Designation between the IAB and the Friendship City. The Friendship Cities Program Designation must be approved by the IAB and signed by the IAB Chair and the relevant official of the Friendship City. Each Friendship Cities Program Designation shall include the following provisions:
 - a. The IAB and interested community members and organizations of the Friendship City may periodically keep in contact for the convenience of discussing topics of mutual interest.
 - b. The Friendship Cities Program Designation may be terminated by either the IAB or the Friendship City, when such termination is deemed to be in its best interest.
12. The sponsoring organization of each Friendship Cities Designation must complete an Annual Report of the exchanges between the Friendship City and the IAB. The Annual Report must be submitted for IAB review as outlined in the “Annual Report” document.